



## Press Release

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## Baldwin Avenue Roadway Underpass to Open after Two Years of Construction

**El Monte, Calif.** – After being closed for two years of construction, a four-lane roadway underpass at the railroad crossing on Baldwin Avenue will open to traffic on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 in the City of El Monte.

The new underpass and railroad bridge, located north of Valley Boulevard, is expected to carry 28,000 vehicles per day. The completion of this project re-establishes the Baldwin Avenue connection between Interstates 10 and 210 in the San Gabriel Valley.

“This project represents great progress for our city and will eliminate accidents and reduce traffic, improving quality of life for our residents,” said El Monte Councilwoman Norma Macias, immediate past chair of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Construction Authority Board of Directors. “I am incredibly thankful for everyone’s patience and support during this substantial endeavor to construct the underpass.”

The re-designed area will alleviate traffic congestion and eliminate the potential for train-vehicle collisions and emergency responder delays. Noise pollutants - inclusive of locomotive horns and crossing gate warnings – and emissions levels are also expected to drastically reduce.

The \$76.7 million project was funded in partnership by Federal and State agencies, Los Angeles County Metro and Union Pacific Railroad. The scope of work required over two years of construction and the employment of 446 construction workers, with 11 percent of construction costs subcontracted to small businesses.

“This project was a win-win for our community,” said El Monte Mayor Pro Tem Bart Patel. “Our community is safer due to this grade crossing, and our residents will be able to get across town more efficiently. Plus we were able to create jobs and invest in our infrastructure without impacting our general fund.”

Construction materials required to complete the Baldwin Avenue grade separation project included 1 million pounds of reinforcing steel, 12,000 cubic yards of poured concrete, and the excavation of 93,000 cubic yards of dirt – enough to fill 11,600 dump trucks.

The highway-rail grade separation is located on the transcontinental ACE Trade Corridor and is currently utilized by 18 freight trains on a daily basis. Usage is anticipated to reach 40 trains by the year 2025 and could reach 59 trains if the railroad decides to double-track the route.

This project marks the eighth grade separation in a series of projects being completed by the ACE Construction Authority in eastern Los Angeles County. Seven grade separations are currently under construction and two additional grade separations are scheduled to break ground next year.

Cumulative cost of the ACE grade separations plus crossing safety improvements totals an estimated \$1.6 billion dollars.

PHOTO CAPTION 1: Officials gathered last month at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of major construction of the four-lane underpass.

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